1 Kings 12-22

The Kingdom Divided

- 1Kings 1-11 gives the history of the undivided kingdom under Solomon’s rule.

- 1Kings 12-22 gives the history of the divided Kingdom caused by Solomon’s son Rehoboam

Purposes of the books of Kings

They record the history of the Kings of Israel & Judah.

They show the importance of a leader's faithfulness to God.
Faithfulness brought God's blessing.
Failure brought personal and national disaster.

Outline of 1Kings 12-22

The Kingdom Divided Chaps 12-22

A. Rehoboam's foolishness ruptures the kingdom 12:1-24

B. Jeroboam's evil reign in Israel 12:25-14:20

C. Rehoboam's evil reign in Judah 14:21-31

D. Abijam's evil reign in Judah 15:1-8

E. Asa's good reign in Judah 15:9-24

F. Nadab's evil reign in Israel 15:25-32

The Kingdom Divided Chaps 12-22

G. Baasha's evil reign in Israel 15:33-16:7

H. Elah's evil reign in Israel 16:8-14

I. Zimri's evil reign in Israel 16:15-20

J. Omri's evil reign in Israel 16:21-28

K. Ahab's evil reign in Israel (Elijah ministry Chaps. 17-19) 16:29-22:40

L. Jehosaphat's good reign in Judah 22:41-50

M. Ahasiah's evil reign in Israel 22:51-53

The Kingdom Divided Chaps 12-22

A. Rehoboam's foolishness ruptures the kingdom 12:1-24

1) Rehoboam rejected the wise counsel of his elders to be a servant to his people. Instead he followed the counsel of his peers to make the people's load even heavier.

* To whom do you go when seeking advice?
Godly counselors who will tell you the truth?
Or those who will tell you what you want to hear?

2) The way to be a leader is to truly serve those whom we lead.

Mk 10:42-45 “Jesus said to them, ‘You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’"

12:16-24 The northern tribes of Israel revolted and made Jeroboam King over them.

Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained with Rehoboam who reigned for 17 years.



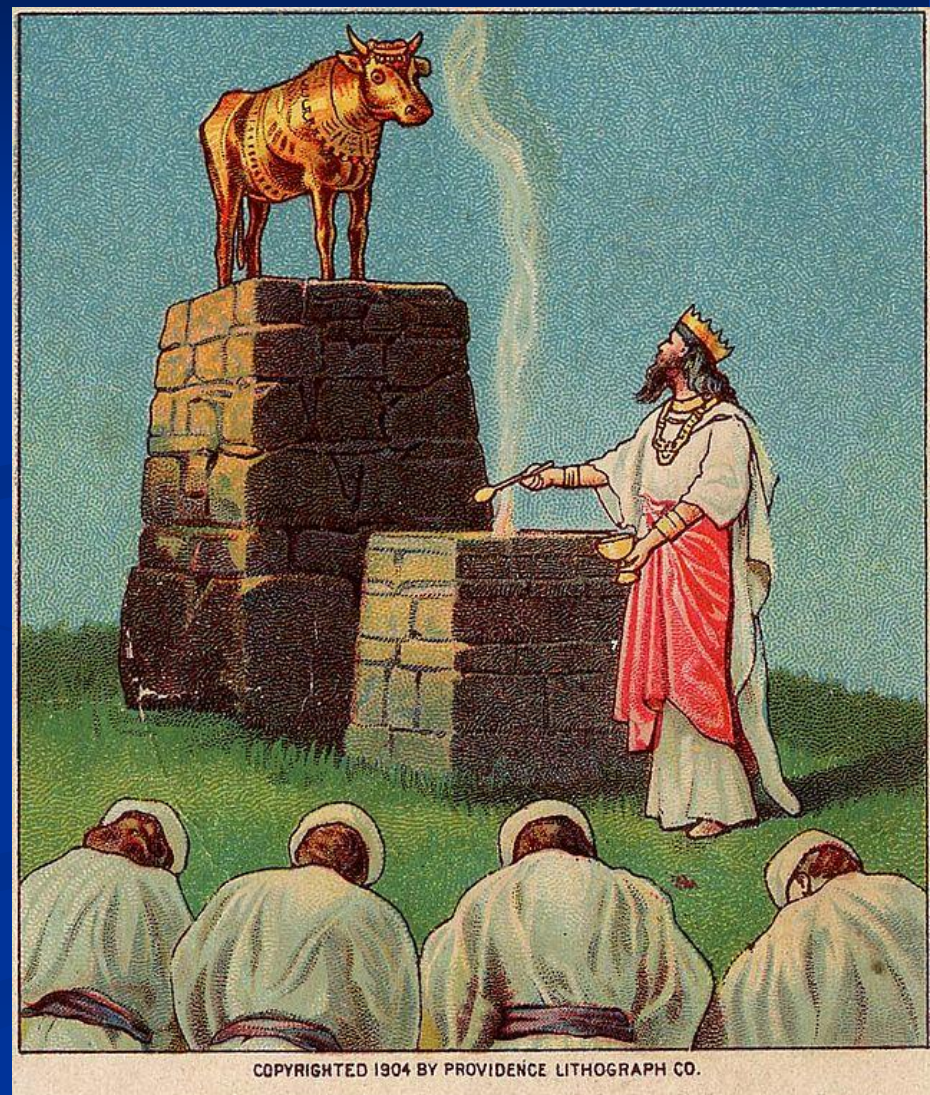
North/South split
931 BC

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Levi
4. Judah
5. Dan
6. Naphtali
7. Gad
8. Asher
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph
    Manasseh
    Ephraim
12. Benjamin

B. Jeroboam's evil reign in Israel for 22 yrs. 12:25-14:20

1. Jeroboam's false religion. 12:26-33

Afraid that the ten Northern tribes would return to Jerusalem to worship, Jeroboam established his own religion to win popularity. He ended up being one of Israel's worst kings.



Jeroboam's sins:

- He used religion to further his own selfish agenda (12:27)
- He repeated the sin of Aaron in making 2 golden calves "...behold your gods, O Israel" (12:28)
- He implied that worshipping Jehovah was too difficult
- He departed from the true worship of Jehovah (12:28-29)
- He appointed priests outside the house of Levi (12:31)
- He set up a new feast day (12:32)
- He created his own way of approaching God (12:33)

- His man-made religion may have been popular and convenient, but it did not have God's approval.
- 2 Tim. 3:1,5 "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be.....holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied it's power; and avoid such men as these."

2. Jeroboam's encounter with a man of God 13:1-32

God sent an unnamed prophet to Jeroboam who denounced Jeroboam's idolatry and prophesied the coming of Josiah who would burn the bones of the idolatrous priests on the altar. This was fulfilled about 300 years later in 2Kings 23:15,16!

13:3-6 As a sign that the prophecy would be fulfilled, the prophet said that the altar would be split apart and the ashes ... poured out. Jeroboam pointed to the prophet and shouted "seize him", but his hand withered and the altar was split apart and the ashes spilled out.

13:7–10 The king couldn't silence the prophet by force, so he tried to bribe him. But the prophet was told by God not to accept anything from Jeroboam. He refused to eat or drink with Jeroboam and took a different route home from Bethel.

13:11–32 On the way home the man of God was met by an old prophet of Bethel who also offered food and drink. At first the man of God refused, but the old prophet lied that an angel had told him to offer him food and drink.

13:20-24 After the old prophet deceived the man of God he condemned him for eating and drinking and told him his body shall not come to the grave of his fathers. When the man of God departed he was killed by a lion. His disobedience cost him his life.



Lessons from this strange incident:

The man of God was prepared to resist Jeroboam's apostasy, but fell to the old prophet's more subtle and even spiritual sounding deception. So we need to be spiritually discerning.

1John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

We shouldn't let other people sway us from what God has revealed to us as His will.

3. Death of Jeroboam's Son (14:1–20)

14:1–4 When Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick, Jeroboam sent his wife disguised to the prophet Ahijah

* Why didn't the king go to one of the false god's? He knew they couldn't help him!

* Why did he have the queen disguised?

Jeroboam knew that Ahijah was opposed to idolatry and would not speak favorably to her if he knew her identity.

14:5–16 The Lord told Ahijah, who was blind, that the queen was coming. As soon as she arrived, the prophet exposed her true identity and sent her back to Jeroboam with a harsh message. Because of the king's idolatry, the Lord would cut off from him every male in Israel. His sick son Abijah would die as soon as his mother entered the city (vs 17,18). God would raise up another king, who would cut off Jeroboam's family.



C. Rehoboam's evil reign in Judah for 17 yrs. 14:21-31

vs 22-24 "Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord and they provoked Him to jealousy more than all that their fathers had done with the sins which they committed." They built the high places, and Asherim (Ryrie: images of Asherah, mother of 70 gods including Baal) on every high hill. There were also male cult prostitutes in the land…

vs 25–27 Jerusalem was attacked by Shishak, king of Egypt who stole the treasures from the king's house including gold shields made by Solomon. To keep up appearances and save face, Rehoboam ordered bronze shields to be made in place of the gold ones that were taken by Shishak.

Gold symbolized the former glory of Israel, which was now gone.

D. Abijam's (son of Rehoboam) evil reign in Judah for 3 yrs. 15:1-8. vs 3 "He walked in all the sins of his father… and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord."

E. Asa's good reign in Judah for 41 yrs. 15:9-24

vs11 Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord…

- He put away the male cult prostitutes vs12
- He removed all the idols which his fathers had made vs12
- He removed Maacah his mother (grandmother) from being queen because of her idolatry. vs 13
- But the high places used in idolatrous worship were not taken away.

* His heart was right, but his reforms were incomplete.
* He took what was left in the temple treasury to bribe a pagan king to attack Israel from the north. vs 16-22

From 15:25 – 16:34 six kings of Israel are listed and they were all evil:

F. Nadab's evil reign in Israel for 2 yrs. 15:25-32. He continued in his father, Jeroboam's idolatry

G. Baasha's evil reign in Israel for 24 yrs. 15:33-16:7

H. Elah's evil reign in Israel for 2 yrs. 16:8-14

I. Zimri's evil reign in Israel for 7 days. 16:15-20

J. Omri's evil reign in Israel for 12 yrs. 16:21-28

K. Ahab's evil reign in Israel for 22yrs. 16:29-22:40

Elijah

1. Elijah's private ministry "Go…hide yourself" Chap.17
   a. The drought pronounced to Ahab 17:1
   b. The brook dries up17:2-7
   c. The depleted bowl replenished 17:8-16
   d. The dead boy raised 17:17–24.

adapted from Warren Wiersbe

2) Elijah's public ministry

a. Elijah meets Ahab's steward Obadiah 18:1–16

b. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal 18:17–29

c. Elijah and Israel 18:30–46



3) Elijah flees from Jezebel Chap. 19

a. God refreshes Elijah. 19:1-8

b. God rebukes Elijah 19:9-18

c. God replaces Elijah with Elisha 19:19–21

4) Ahab's defense against Ben-Hadad, King of Syria 20:1–22

a. The challenge: Ben Hadad's terms of surrender 20:1-12

b. The conquest: 20:13-30

c. The compromise 20:30b-43

5) Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard 21:1-29

6) Ahab's defeat and death fighting King Aram 22:1-40

L. Jehosaphat's good reign in Judah for 25 yrs. 22:41-50

M. Ahaziah's evil reign in Israel for 2 yrs. 22:51-53

Lessons from the Kings:

- We are responsible to God & need to respond to what He says, no matter what others may say or do.
- We will reap what we have sown.
- When the priesthood and the kings failed, God raised up prophets.
- When the kings & people did not listen to God's spokesmen, He disciplined His people.
- God rewards obedience with blessing & punishes disobedience.
- The kingdom was divided because of sin. We need to "be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph 4:3